



**UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL PROGRAMME FOR THE ECONOMIES OF  
CENTRAL ASIA (SPECA)**

**2018 SPECA Economic Forum “Twenty years of SPECA:  
A new stage in regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for  
Sustainable Development”**

**(Almaty, Kazakhstan, 20-21 September 2018)**

**Summary Report**

The SPECA Economic Forum “Twenty years of SPECA: A new stage in regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” was held from 20 to 21 September 2018 in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

Under the chairmanship of Kazakhstan, representatives from seven SPECA countries - Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan as well as international organizations and regional think tanks discussed achieved progress during the last 20 years and current developments and challenges of the SPECA Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) in the areas of structural economic transformation, trade, transport, ICT, environment, infrastructure, water and energy, statistics, knowledge-based development, women’s empowerment and regional connectivity, cooperation and integration. The Economic Forum agreed to further strengthen SPECA to support the regional economic cooperation and integration into the regional and global economies and efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024 to overcome the structural challenges faced by SPECA countries.

## Conclusions and recommendations.

The 2018 SPECA Economic Forum invites Governments of the SPECA countries, relevant stakeholders and development partners to consider the following conclusions and recommendations taking into account their specific needs.

1. **Achieved progress within the last 20 years by SPECA participating countries and the commitment of all stakeholders in joint implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).**
  - a. All SPECA participating countries made substantial progress towards strengthening regional cooperation and integration, connectivity and economic development within the last 20 years.
  - b. All SPECA participating countries have implemented reforms to restructure their economic systems, prudently manage public finances and monetary systems.
  - c. SPECA Thematic Working Groups have made progress in such areas as trade, knowledge-based development, sustainable transport, transit, connectivity, water, energy, environment, women's empowerment and statistics.
  - d. Strengthening of economic cooperation and integration into the regional and global economies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development require close coordination in social and economic policies of the SPECA countries.
2. **Strengthening cooperation in the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs) for the Decade 2014-2024 (A/RES/69/137), which overarching goal is to overcome the structural challenges faced by LLDCs in order to achieve internationally agreed development goals.**
  - a. **The Economic Forum noted that SPECA participating countries achieved a progress during the implementation of the VPoA in a number of areas, such as:**
    - Investment in infrastructure development has been given priority during this period.
    - LLDCs have made important progress in transport, trade, energy, and ICT connectivity.
  - b. **LLDCs continue to face structural challenges to accessing to international markets but the solutions could be different.** The challenges are the following:
    - access to sea ports;
    - transportation costs;
    - weakly developed infrastructure;
    - weaknesses in regulatory framework;
    - limited capacity-building;
    - lack of financial resources; and
    - other challenges including transportation safety and security issues.
  - c. **To reduce trade costs, increase competitiveness of LLDCs' economies and promote growth the SPECA countries need to take steps in the following areas:**
    - **Infrastructure Development:** Explore innovative means to mobilize additional funds to build new and maintain existing transport infrastructure.
    - **Trade Facilitation:** Implement the measures of the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement to assist LLDCs that rely on transit through third countries to access sea ports and consider accession and active participation in the Framework on Facilitation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific. Trade

facilitation could become a strong vehicle to provide access to the regional markets.

- **Reform of the Trucking Sector and Harmonization of Regulatory Regimes:** Remove trade barriers further for international trucking and promoting incentives for quality and compliance. In this connection regional transport agreements of ESCAP (Asian Highway Network, Trans-Asian Railway Network, Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports) and UNECE Transport Conventions will facilitate these reforms.
- **Improve access to financial resources within the available sources.** The SPECA Economic Forum invites ESCAP, UNECE, SPECA countries and other development partners to continue close cooperation on joint projects and activities to implement priorities of the SPECA countries.

### **3. Acceleration of structural economic transformation is a fundamental condition to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and increasing shared prosperity in the SPECA participating countries.**

- a. The Economic Forum agreed that efforts on industrialization, diversification, export enhancement, improvement of statistics, digitalization, infrastructure and knowledge-based development, good governance, regional and global integration of SPECA participating countries are important conditions for structural economic transformation.
- b. To facilitate structural economic transformation of the SPECA participating countries could develop of non-commodity sectors, such as ICT, finance, e-commerce, tourism, venture business and green economy.
- c. Fostering inclusive growth that is broad based, equitable and promotes women empowerment. SPECA countries agreed that job-creating inclusive economic growth is important for the development of national strategies. To achieve these objectives, SPECA participating countries agreed that they will need to further develop competitive and vibrant private sector well integrated into the regional and global economies.

### **4. Fostering global and regional economic integration and cross-border cooperation within the SPECA region and beyond.**

- a. Integration of SPECA participating countries into the regional and global economies is important to achieve inclusive growth by offering new markets and improving competitiveness and productivity intra SPECA and international trade, transport, transit connectivity, water and energy cooperation. SPECA provides the opportunity to share good practices and exchange experience on the economic cooperation within the SPECA region and beyond.
- b. SPECA participating countries have potential to develop their land-link connections, to tap deeper regional and subregional markets, which will provide a major impetus to economic and trade diversification. There are equally good prospects for the SPECA participating countries to serve as transit land bridge for the movement of goods and services, from South to North and from East to West. Developing regional connectivity and transport route diversification will be crucial for the SPECA participating countries to become land-linked. Moving forward, effectively leveraging the opportunities offered by regional integration initiatives, such as the Belt and Road Initiative, Eurasian Economic Union as well as intergovernmental agreements on trade corridors, could enhance connectivity in the SPECA region.

### **5. An enhancement of subregional infrastructure, energy, transport, ICT connectivity, trade facilitation, and investment competitiveness.**

- a. Investing in the modernization of infrastructure related to transport, power generation, green economy, innovations and ICT framework is an essential component of a pro-growth strategy. It is essential for economic competitiveness, sustainability and inclusiveness.

**6. The Economic Forum recommended to include banking system and capital markets issues and relatively weak regional financial interlinkages among SPECA countries in the Programme of the next SPECA Economic Forum.**

## **Proceedings.**

The representative of ESCAP highlighted that during the last 20 years the size of the economy of the SPECA countries has increased more than 8 times from \$40 billion in 1998 to \$343.3 billion in 2018. The total trade has increased almost 10 times from \$18 billion to \$179 billion. The population has grown from 49.8 million to 117.8 million and life expectancy at birth has risen from 65.8 to 70.2 years. With the exception of Afghanistan, all SPECA participating countries are now middle-income countries. Trade, transport, energy and ICT links in landlocked countries have been expanded, offering new possibilities for all.

The representative of UNECE emphasized the importance, role, achievements, and challenges of SPECA as a key subregional platform to promote economic cooperation, integration, and sustainable development in the region. She noted that the 2030 Agenda provides the overarching policy framework for all countries to achieve sustainable development. UNECE, jointly with ESCAP and UN agencies at the country level, was ready to support SPECA countries with SDG implementation through policy advice and capacity-building. SPECA would continue to provide an excellent platform for the discussion of challenges, exchange of experiences and peer learning for the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Representatives of the SPECA participating countries highlighted the following issues and priorities:

- a) Afghanistan is committed to exploit the potential of its geographical location to provide a land transit from China to Europe and access to sea ports for Central Asian countries through Chabahar Port.
- b) Azerbaijan has been implementing a broad range of measures on structural economic transformation including diversification, private sector development, infrastructure modernization and investment climate promotion.
- c) Kazakhstan is committed to promotion of regional cooperation and integration. Among others, the priorities of Kazakhstan are infrastructure development, connectivity, international competitiveness and integration of Kazakhstan into the global economy.
- d) Kyrgyzstan has been implementing important steps on integration its economy into the regional and global markets. Among others, Kyrgyzstan has the following priorities: digitalization, diversification, export enhancement and innovations. The representative of Kyrgyzstan advised to conduct specific economic researches and to present the results on the Economic Forum for the enhancement of the discussions.
- e) Tajikistan through the various development strategies has been creating a favourable environment for small and medium businesses, attractive investment climate and competitiveness of domestic producers. The country has great expectations from its membership in WTO.

- f) Turkmenistan considers regional integration and cooperation as effective means to respond to economic and social challenges in the region. The country believes that regional cooperation enhances competitiveness of countries in rapidly changing global economy and considers Central Asia as a key player in the revival of the Silk Road.
- g) Uzbekistan has been conducting a liberalization of foreign trade regime, introduction of e-commerce, and enhancement of business climate.

The Annotated Programme of the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum is attached (Annex I).

Representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan as well as representatives from other United Nations member States, ESCAP and UNECE, other United Nations agencies and programmes, international and regional organizations, and the academic community participated in the work of the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum. The list of participants is attached (Annex II).

## ANNEX I

### ANNOTATED PROGRAMME

The United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) was established through the Tashkent Declaration of 26 March 1998 to promote regional economic cooperation in Central Asia and integration of these countries into economies of Europe and Asia.

Recalling the commitment of all stakeholders to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1) and the overarching goal of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (A/RES/69/137) to overcome their structural challenges to attain internationally agreed development goals, the Ganja Declaration emanating from the eleventh session of the SPECA Governing Council expressed support for SPECA as a platform for reinforcing progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on infrastructure, innovation, and diversification, which are crucial drivers of economic growth and sustainable development.

This Economic Forum, convened under the theme “Twenty years of SPECA: A new stage in regional cooperation for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” considers how developments in transport, trade, environment, water and energy, statistics, knowledge-based development and gender and economy, contributed towards regional economic cooperation and sustainable development of the SPECA participating countries, in part, by addressing the specific priorities of landlocked developing countries, as contained in the Vienna Programme of Action.<sup>1</sup> Given their dependence on selected economic sectors for growth, trade and employment, continued structural economic transformation may need to complement measures to strengthen trade, transport, communication and energy networks, if benefit from regional integration and cooperation are to be realized. Its means of implementation may furthermore call for each country to mobilize its resources as well as seek support of its development partners, including the private sector. Discussions will also take into consideration other initiatives that are being implemented in the subregion with the ultimate objective of eradicating poverty in all its forms and leaving no-one behind as stated in the Agenda 2030.

Through the adoption of the Resolution “Follow-up to the second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries” (A/RES/72/232), the General Assembly decided to convene a comprehensive high-level midterm review of the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024 in 2019 to review progress made in its implementation. Given the launch of the first Programme of Action for landlocked developing countries in Central Asia, in August 2003 in Almaty, the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum could

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<sup>1</sup> The priorities of the Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 are:

- Priority 1: Fundamental transit policy issues
- Priority 2: Infrastructure development and maintenance
  - (a) Transport infrastructure
  - (b) Energy and information and communications technology infrastructure
- Priority 3: International trade and trade facilitation
  - (a) International trade
  - (b) Trade facilitation
- Priority 4: Regional integration and cooperation
- Priority 5: Structural economic transformation
- Priority 6: Means of implementation

provide a timely opportunity to review the achievements and challenges of the landlocked SPECA countries.

*20 September 2018 (Day 1)*

**Registration of participants  
08.30-08.50**

**Group photo (Heads of Delegations)  
08.50-09.00**

**1. Opening of the forum  
09.00-09.30**

**Documentation:**

Annotated Provisional Programme (SPECA/EF/2018/1)

Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**2. Progress in transport, trade, energy and information and communication technology through regional cooperation  
09.30-10.30**

**Documentation:**

Vienna Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 (A/RES/69/137) (SPECA/EF/2018/INF/1)

Socio-economic development of the seven SPECA participating countries is constrained by lack of territorial access to the sea, remoteness and isolation from world markets and high transit costs. Improved connectivity in transport, trade, energy and information and communication technology through development of roads and railways networks, rural energy infrastructure, open and affordable access to the Internet as well as enhanced intraregional trade could highlight the progress made towards attainment of Priorities 1 (fundamental transit policy issues), 2 (infrastructure development and maintenance) and 3 (international trade and trade facilitation) of the Vienna Programme of Action.

**Panel discussion: Key results of SPECA, 1998-2018  
09.30-10.00**

Chairpersons of the SPECA Thematic Working Groups on Sustainable Transport, Transit and Connectivity; Trade; Water, Energy and Environment; and Knowledge-based Development

**Plenary discussion: SPECA members followed by observers  
10.00-10.30**

**Group photo (All participants) 10.30-10.40**

**Coffee Break 10.40-11.00**

**3. Regional integration and cooperation  
11.00-12.45**

In addition to improved connectivity in transport, energy and information and communications technology, infrastructure, trade and regulatory policies of neighboring countries have significant repercussions for landlocked countries. For these countries, the cost of reaching international markets depends not only on their geography, policies, infrastructure and administrative procedures but also on those of their transit developing countries. Given that SPECA countries themselves are transit developing countries, regional integration and cooperation (Priority 4), as well as harmonized regional policies could lead to improved transit transport connectivity and intraregional trade.

**Country statements: Progress and challenges for improved connectivity and harmonized regulatory policies**  
**11.00-11.45**

Representatives of Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan

**Plenary discussion: International organizations**  
**11.45-12.15**

**Plenary discussion: SPECA countries**  
**12.15-12.45**

**Lunch 12.45-14.00**

**4. Structural economic transformation**  
**14.00-15.45**

Structural economic transformation (Priority 5) is essential if participating countries of the United Nations Special Programme for the Economies of Central Asia (SPECA) are to benefit from regional integration resulting from improved trade, transport communication and energy networks. Such transformation would require greater value addition in manufacturing and agriculture, economic and export diversification, service sector development and foreign direct investment in high-value added sectors. Such transformation could allow SPECA countries, especially those previously with economies in transition from centrally planned to a market oriented one, to overcome their geographical disadvantages as well as external shocks, promote employment and attain sustainable development.

**Documentation:**

Regional cooperation for structural economic transformation towards sustainable development in the SPECA region (SPECA/EF/2018/2)

**Presentation by Mr. Vladimir Popov, Research Director in Economics and Political Sciences, Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, Berlin**  
**14.00-14.30**

**Panel discussion: Structural economic transformation**  
**14.30-15.15**

Representatives of selected (1) SPECA countries, (2) developing countries that have undergone structural economic transformation, (3) international financial institutions, (3) academia/research institutions/civil society/private sector and (5) Chairpersons, Thematic Working Groups on Gender and Economy and on Statistics



**Plenary discussion: SPECA members followed by observers  
15.15-15.45**

**Coffee break 15.45-16.00**

**5. Means of implementation: Partnerships for enhancing cooperation within SPECA  
16.00-17.30**

Mobilization of domestic resources for the development of infrastructure and transit facilities needs to be complemented with the support of development partners, including through South-South cooperation. In addition to the transit developing countries, these partners could include international and regional development partners as well as the private sector.

**Panel discussion: Means of implementation  
16.00-16.30**

Representatives of selected (1) SPECA countries, (2) transit developing countries, (3) subregional organizations; (4) development partners and (5) private sector

**Plenary discussion: SPECA members followed by observers  
16.30-17.30**

**Reception (Restaurant at the “Worldhotel Saltanat Almaty”)  
18.00-20.00**

*21 September 2018 (Day 2)*

**6. Conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Forum  
09.00-10.00**

The conclusions and recommendations of the Economic Forum will be submitted by the Chairperson of the 2018 SPECA Economic Forum for consideration and adoption as decisions of the thirteenth session of the Governing Council of SPECA.

**7. Closing of the forum  
10.00-10.30**

Minister of National Economy of the Republic of Kazakhstan  
Executive Secretary, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific  
Executive Secretary, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

**Coffee break 10.30-11.00**

**ANNEX II****LIST OF PARTICIPANTS****SPECA NATIONAL DELEGATIONS****ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN**

- H.E. Ms. Alhaj Delbar NAZARI, Minister, Ministry of Women's Affairs
- H.E. Mr. Humayoon RASAW, Minister, Ministry of Trade and Industry
- Mr. Naqibullah HAFIZI, Deputy Director General for Regional Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Ahmad Zia SAYD KHAILI, Commercial Attaché of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Embassy in the Republic of Kazakhstan, Consulate General of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in Almaty
- Mr. Abdulsaboor KHALILY, Secretary, Ministry of Women's Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
- Mr. Husseyin ALI, President, International News Agency UFUQNEWS

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

- Ms. Inara MUSTAFAYEVA, Head of Division on Cooperation with International Economic Organizations, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Vasif ALIYEV, First Secretary of the UN and Global Economic Organizations Division, Department of Economic Cooperation and Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Emil AHMADOV, Leading Adviser, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Transport, Communications and High Technologies
- Ms. Narmin Vidadi ZEYNALOVA, Head of Labor Regulation and Promotion of Formal Employment Division, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population
- Ms. Sabina MANAFOVA, Head of International Relations and Protocol Service Department, State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

- H.E. Mr. Baibek BAUYRZHAN, Mayor of Almaty city
- Mr. Yerlan AUKENOV, Deputy Mayor of Almaty city, Administration of Almaty
- Mr. Asset IRGALIYEV, Deputy Minister, Ministry of National Economy
- H.E. Ms. Zhanar AITZHANOVA, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the Swiss Confederation, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kazakhstan to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
- Mr. Kairat TOREBAYEV, Director, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy
- Mr. Serik BASHIMOV, Director, Department of Transit and Transport Logistics Development, Ministry of Investment and Development
- Ms. Zhyldyz PERNEBAYEVA, Director, Department of Social Policy and State Bodies, Ministry of National Economy
- Mr. Ruslan BULTRIKOV, Head of Representative Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Mr. Birzhan ZHUMAGULOV, Expert, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of National Economy

- Ms. Zifa YAKUPOVA, Head, Department of Services and Energy Statistics, Ministry of National Economy
- Mr. Zhunus YERGALIYEV, Kazakhstan-Afghanistan Association for Development and Partnership AfgQaz LLC

#### **KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

- Mr. Eldar ABAKIROV, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economy
- Ms. Aizada KUDAIBERDIEVA, Chief Specialist, Department of External Ties, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Zhyldyzbek ZHUMAKOV, Head Specialist, Trade Division, Department of Trade policy and Licensing, Ministry of Economy
- Mr. Marat ZHEENBEKOV, Head of the Department of Electricity Industry, State Committee of Industry, Energy and Subsoil Use

#### **REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**

- Mr. Zavqi ZAVQIZODA, First Deputy Minister, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Mr. Abdurakhmon ABDURAKHMONOV, Head of the WTO Affairs Department, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Ms. Malika KURBONOVA, Chief Specialist, Ministry of Economic Development and Trade
- Ms. Gulchekhra NAZAROVA, Head of Department, Social Protection of Women, Committee for Women and Family Affairs

#### **TURKMENISTAN**

- Mr. Ezizgeldi ANNAMUHAMMEDOV, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Mr. Atajan ATAYEV, Deputy Head of the Department of Financing and Development of Economy Sectors, Ministry of Finance and Economy
- Mr. Myrat MYRADOV, Head of the Division of Legal Assistance and Coordination of Foreign Economic Relations, Department of Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Trade and Foreign Economic Relations
- Mr. Maksat BEKIYEV, Counsellor of the International Organizations Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

#### **REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

- Mr. Feruzbek KURBONOV, General Counsel, Legal Department, Ministry of Foreign Trade
- Ms. Dilorom KUZIEVA, Women Committee

#### **DELEGATIONS OF OTHER UNITED NATIONS COUNTRIES**

##### **GERMANY**

- Mr. Jens Frank SCHLECHTER, Representative of the German Technical Cooperation Project “Trade Facilitation in Central Asia”, German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ)

##### **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

- Mr. Arsen BOGATYREV, Second Secretary, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

**UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION****UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (ESCAP)**

- Mr. Hongjoo HAHM, Officer-in-charge of ESCAP
- Mr. Hirohito TODA, Head, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Nikolay POMOSHCHNIKOV, Senior Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Rustam ISSAKHOJAYEV, Programme Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Ms. Lyazzat PALYMBETOVA, Programme Assistant, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Vladimir POPOV, ESCAP consultant, Research Director in Economics and Political Sciences, Dialogue of Civilizations Research Institute, Berlin
- Ms. Natalia MAQSIMCHOOK, Research Assistant, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Osama RAJKHAN, Social Affairs Officer, ESCAP Social Development Division
- Mr. Ulukbek USUBALIEV, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Macroeconomic Policy and Financing for Development Division
- Mr. Bekhzod RAKHMATOV, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Transport Division
- Mr. Hiroaki OGAWA, Associate Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Rauan ZAINOV, Team Assistant, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia
- Mr. Rustam KHAN, Intern, ESCAP Subregional Office for North and Central Asia

**UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE (UNECE)**

- Ms. Monika LINN, Principal Adviser, Chief of the Sustainable Development and Gender Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary
- Mr. Mario APOSTOLOV, SPECA Deputy Coordinator at the UNECE, Secretary to the SPECA WG on Trade, Regional Adviser, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Mr. Christopher ATHEY, UNECE Secretary to the SPECA WG on KBD, Economic Affairs Officer, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Mr. Batyr HAJIYEV, UNECE Secretary to the SPECA WG on WEE, Economic Affairs Officer, Environment Division
- Mr. Talaibek MAKEEV, Economic Affairs Officer, UNECE Environment Division
- Ms. Mijidgombo OYUNJARGAL, Senior Research Assistant, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Ms. Tatiana APATENKO, SPECA Consultant, Economic Cooperation and Trade Division
- Mr. Bo LIBERT, UNECE International Consultant

**UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (UNEP)**

- Ms. Nara LUVSAN, Head of Central Asia Office a.i., UN Environment
- Mr. Olzhas ATYMTAYEV, National Programme Officer, UN Environment

**UN-WOMEN**

- Ms. Mehtap TATAR, Programme Specialist, UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia

**UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND (UNICEF)**

- Ms. Tatiana TEN, Emergency/DRR Specialist, Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia (ECARO), Almaty Bureau

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (UNDP)**

- Mr. Norimasa SHIMOMURA, United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Kazakhstan

**UNITED NATIONS INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (UNIDO)**

- Mr. Marat USUPOV, UNIDO Country Representative

**UNITED NATIONS REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PREVENTIVE DIPLOMACY FOR CENTRAL ASIA (UNRCCA)**

- Ms. Bakhit ABDILDINA, UNRCCA Representative in Kazakhstan

**INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS****COMMONWEALTH OF INDEPENDENT STATES (CIS)**

- Mr. Peter SEMIN, Chief of Division, Executive Committee, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

**CENTER FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (CESDRR)**

- Mr. Batyrkhan UTEPOV, Senior Expert, Emergency Situations Department, Center for Emergency Situations and Disaster Risk Reduction (CESDRR)

**REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL CENTRE FOR CENTRAL ASIA (CAREC)**

- Ms. Saltanat ZHAKENOVA, Leading Specialist, Regional Environmental Centre for Central Asia (CAREC)

**SHANGHAI COOPERATION ORGANISATION (SCO)**

- Mr. Vladimir POTAPENKO, Deputy Secretary-General, Shanghai Cooperation Organization
- Ms. Minara RAKHANOVA, Counsellor, Secretariat of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

**EURASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (EDB)**

- Mr. Leonid EFIMOV, Deputy Head, International Cooperation Division, Eurasian Development Bank

**ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK (ISDB)**

- Mr. Samir TAGHIYEV, Senior Regional Manager for CIS Countries

**ACADEMIA****INTERNATIONAL THINK TANK FOR LLDCS**

- H.E. Mr. Erdenetsogt ODBAYAR, Executive Director, International Think Tank for LLDCs

**CENTER FOR EURASIAN STUDIES (AVIM)**

- H.E. Mr. Çinar ALDEMIR, Ambassador, Consultant to the Center, Center for Eurasian Studies (AVIM)

**NAZARBAYEV UNIVERSITY (NU)**

- Mr. Shigeo KATSU, President, Nazarbayev University

**KIMEP UNIVERSITY**

- Mr. Nadeem NAQVI, Professor of Economics, KIMEP University

**AL-FARABY KAZAKH NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

- Ms. Dana SHOKPAKOVA, Deputy Dean of the Faculty, Al-Farabi Kazakh National University
- Mr. Rafis ABAZOV, Vice-principal on Sustainable Development
- Ms. Galiya IBRAYEVA, Director of UNAI Programme
- Ms. Nazgul SHYNGYSOVA, Head of Department of Journalism

**COMPETITION AGENCY OF GEORGIA**

- Mr. Nodar KHADURI, Chairman, Competition Agency of Georgia